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Recommendations and Problems
Monthly Reports for January 1958

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

As a result of the increasing amount of work being assigned to the Chart and Graph Section, it has been necessary to temporarily assign two additional people to this unit. It is also planned to exchange the quarters of this Section with that of the Drafting Section to more efficiently utilize space.

During the month, two representatives from the Management Team surveying the utilization of reproduction facilities were thoroughly briefed into the operation of the Division relative to the requirements it places upon the Main Reproduction plant facilities. Every effort is being made to reduce the number of requests sent to the reproduction plants.

Several members of the Division participated in an initial inter-agency briefing with D/GP on the problem of urban studies. Further study will be undertaken by an ad hoc committee proposed at that meeting.

USSR-SATELLITES COMPILATION BRANCH

25X1C10C The Branch is convinced that increased cartographic support to the [REDACTED] and a serious attempt at exploitation of D/GP resources is highly desirable. Further, despite the completion of the EuSats town plan series, it is felt that support to DD/P operations should be increased over what this support has been in the past. In addition, considering the large volume of base maps distributed by D/GL, the need for an active maintenance program of revision is increased. This maintenance is nonexistent at present, except where the NIS program compels revision.

Any one of the above programs could be increased by the current Branch, but with two persons leaving the Branch within the next six months, none of these programs seems possible. Depending upon replacements and the speed of integration into the Branch, there is some possibility even of a cutback, before any of the programs can be considered seriously.

SPECIAL SUPPORT BRANCH

The revision of the OCI Daily Bulletin actually affects us very little. We did make hemisphere locator maps for the introductory page, and we do, where possible, supply OCI Graphics with original plates of our maps when they request it. We have also instituted a policy of getting separation plates of all our new maps, plus selected maps from our back files, for OCI Graphics use.

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CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION (CONT'D)

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

The number of rerun requests from the Map Library continues to be fairly high, but even more serious from the point of view of meeting the requests properly is the fact that the large majority of the maps require revision in some degree. It is not wise in our opinion, to rerun a map that we know to be deficient yet we do not have the capabilities to perform the necessary revision and also keep abreast of our regular production schedule. This situation is one of long-standing and not one which has developed in the past month or so. Our base maps, which are used widely throughout the IAC are particularly affected by this situation. Rerun requests are screened by the Branch in order to suggest a suitable substitute or to determine whether or not it would be best to drop a map entirely and we do not take on any such requests that are not legitimate reruns.

It has been a matter of concern to this Branch that some of the maps put out by the "aid shop" have seemed to depart from the general appearance of our products in some minor ways. A single line title box on the map of Laos for Admiral Layton is an example. This may have been an expedient, but it is a map which should represent our "best foot forward" if possible. This same map also has no tone on the areas outside of Laos and as on Chapter I maps it would improve the appearance here. A recent GM on Sweden has some things of this nature on it. The point here is that we should not get too slack in this particular part of our Division in the way of moving things out fast and there should be some standards set and held to in which the Division concurs. The sketch map appearance should be avoided unless it really is a sketch map.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Coordination Staff reports that the possibility of completing the Chapters IX and Sections 19 on the FY 58 schedule with the present staff of two coordinators is increasingly remote. Also if the proposed Chapter I Annual schedule is adopted, some provision will have to be made for an adjustment in the Chapter IX and Section 19 schedules for FY 58.

In addition to the problem of delay in Reproduction, a second problem has arisen there -- a progressive reduction in the quality of the photographs reproduced. Almost all the photo-reproductions in GR-163, the E and E on Southwest European USSR, were below standard and half of them did not even show the features specifically noted in the text. The report was returned, and Reproduction will try rerunning to improve the photos. The Editing and Review Staff is trying a new approach to the problem, i.e., in GR-171 all of the illustrations have been combined in a photographic appendix at the end of the report, on enamel stock; this procedure should improve the quality of the reproduction but it would not be practical in all reports.

Seven members of the Geography Division made application to use the Language Laboratory, 1152 Q Building. Some hitches in getting the tape-listening program started have been experienced, particularly for Eastern European languages.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

COORDINATION STAFF

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A suggestion relayed to OBI concerning one of the revised NIS Memos that was to be discussed at the 21 January NIS Committee meeting was overruled by [REDACTED] of OBI without being presented to the Committee. This is another indication that the CIA producing components do not have adequate representation on the NIS Committee.

FAR EAST BRANCH

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The recent news of the possible availability of [REDACTED] money for CIA use raises some interesting possibilities. Anyone attending international scientific and professional conferences these days cannot help being impressed at the large numbers of academic personnel who are being financed for field work, foreign teaching assignments, or just plain travel by Ford, Rockefeller, Fulbright, etc. This was true at the Regional IGU meetings in Tokyo, where we were fortunate enough to have a representative in attendance. It was also true at the Bangkok meetings of the Pacific Science Congress, where geographers were much in evidence (See Harold Wiens' article in the current Professional Geographer) even though we were not fortunate enough to have an observer there. We feel that the current situation, whereby academic geographers -- many of them actually subsidized by government grants -- are in a more favorable position to have opportunities for foreign field work and attendance at international conferences than are government career geographers, is basically unsound. We believe that we should take advantage of every opportunity to extend and expand the professional foreign area competence of our research people. The sabbatical is now a well-established practice in universities and even in some private research organizations. The Ford Foundation or other possibility for underwriting such a program for government career geographers and foreign area specialists should be fully explored.

It is ironical to contemplate that one almost inevitable result of our failure to exploit all possible means of getting government career geographers into the field would show up vividly in the unhappy event of a hot war and total mobilization; the geographers with the best background of area competence from field experience will be in the universities, not in the government career service.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRANCH

The attention of the Branch has once again been brought to the delay encountered in the dispatch of material from D/GL in instances where the material is of mutual interest to D/GL and D/GG. In some cases the Branch has received items of intelligence value long after they have cleared Info Control. It is suggested that, if desired, the documents will be returned to D/GL after processing or file after they have been viewed by D/GG, thus avoiding their belated arrival in [REDACTED]

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

EUROPE BRANCH

There is still considerable interest in the idea of "U.W." schooling. Is the program still under development?

The recent security briefing detailing specific cases of attempted penetration, etc., was a sound step forward in the development of better security. It is suggested that this idea be followed up. It is much more effective than reading the manual and signing names or initials.

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Staff -- [REDACTED]

Re PN 60.1595-9 (Civil Divisions of the World), since we have complied with both the letter and spirit of the "as soon as possible" directive that appeared in the initiation memorandum, we take a dim view of the sluggish pace at which the work has moved after completion of the research. There is no reason why Parts I and II should not at this writing be in the hands of the requestor.

The approach to the final production of the various sections is militating strongly against the explicitly expressed desires of the requester, which are: To receive 12 ditto copies of each regional section promptly as soon as it is complete. If Percy's request must be used as a springboard for preparing an elaborate, rearranged, lithographed version (which he did not request, and which will be 30 percent obsolete ere it reaches him), let it be done after we have met his basic request.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

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The problem of the lack of clerical assistance in the Cataloging and Indexing Section has been aggravated by the resignation of [REDACTED]. In addition to performing general clerical and typing duties (for the fifth consecutive month), the catalogers are now also absorbing the card sorting and filing duties which had been performed by [REDACTED].

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PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

None reported.